



FIGURE 1.--Map showing areas in Washington State for which open-file reports containing streamflow statistics and drainage-basin characteristics are available. Shaded area is covered in this report.

PART A

General Explanation of Data

When the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) operates a recording gaging station on a stream, it publishes daily mean discharges in its annual State Water-Data Reports. Although these daily discharges are not repeated in this report, they are the basis for most of the data in this report. The summary tables of monthly and annual mean discharges, as well as the tables of highest and lowest mean flows, were obtained from the daily mean figures at each site.

Annual instantaneous peak flows are also included in this report. These values were obtained at regular recording gaging stations and also at some special sites and partial-record stations where these data are the only data available. The annual peak-flow data were used to compute estimates of the magnitude and frequency of floods on the streams.

This report also contains drainage-basin and climatic characteristics for each site, either obtained from U.S. Weather Bureau data or computed from standard USGS topographic quadrangle maps. A more detailed explanation of the methods used to compute the various characteristics is given in the next section of this report.

Most of the water resources data collected by the U.S. Geological Survey is stored in several computer files maintained at the central computer facilities in Reston, Virginia. As a part of the Survey's program of releasing water data to the public, a large-scale computerized system for WATer data STOrage and REtrieval (WATSTORE-1975) has been developed. Much of the data presented in this report was retrieved from four WATSTORE computer files—the station header file, the daily values file, the peak flow file, and the streamflow and basin characteristics file. The station header file was used to list the gaging station name and standard USGS downstream order number for each site, along with the location by county and latitude and longitude, as shown in table 1. The other three files were used to make retrievals from which the streamflow-summary tables, peak-flow tables, and basin-characteristics tables were made.

Only data for gaging stations having 5 or more years of record are included in this report. For those stations having 5 to 9 years of record, only listings of the monthly and annual mean flows and annual peak flows are presented. For stations with 10 or more years of record, additional statistics are presented.

The data for sites with less than 5 years of continuous record can be obtained by consulting either the annual USGS State Water-Data Reports or Washington State Department of Conservation Water-Supply Bulletin No. 23 (1964), or by contacting the USGS office in Tacoma.

